



Nancy Byrnes
Advocacy Committee Chairwoman

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To The Members of the Education Committee:

We represent the membership of CTETL. CTETL represents technology leaders across the State of Connecticut. We applaud the legislature's commitment to protecting the data privacy of our students. We ask that you support the refinements to the current bill HB05444 as it will enable districts of all sizes to more effectively implement the rules put forward. Elimination of terms that can cause confusion, providing opportunity to allow students of special needs access to important tools of communication and learning, and the facility of a state portal are meaningful changes.

Facilitating the CT learn platform to provide educators with access to technology products that have already been scrutinized, and have agreed to conform to the terms of the law will allow teachers autonomy in their classrooms while insure student data privacy. Teachers can now, in confidence, check click wrap agreements by those companies and know they are abiding by state law, and their students are protected.

By providing this binding tool, districts can now reference it not as a pledge, but as a portion of a standard state contract indicating compliance with state law, removing the heavy burden of 169 districts working with as many lawyers on redundant contracts, slowing district and teacher's ability to be agile in their classrooms.

By aligning the legislative retention requirements with the privacy legislation, districts can insure compliance with both rules.

Removing the confusion between duplicate/redundant copies and back up systems by stating them correctly will remove an obstacle that has made some contract difficult to achieve agreement. And, by implementing a provision allowing for specific, specially used programs, required by individual education plans will insure our special needs students will be able to utilize the products they require to thrive.

Sincerely,

Ms. Nancy Byrnes
Advocacy Committee Chairwoman

Dr. Craig S. Tunks, CETL
Co-Chairman

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